

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int lonal Application No
PCT/GB2004/004683

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 C12Q1/32 G01N33/50 G01N33/68 A61P15/08

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C12Q G01N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, BIOSIS, WPI Data, PAJ, EMBASE

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	THURSTON LISA M ET AL: "Identification of amplified restriction fragment length polymorphism markers linked to genes controlling boar sperm viability following cryopreservation" BIOLOGY OF REPRODUCTION, vol. 66, no. 3, March 2002 (2002-03), pages 545-554, XP008042683 ISSN: 0006-3363 cited in the application page 545, right-hand column, line 2 - line 16	1-13
A	US 6 183 991 B1 (LOK SI ET AL) 6 February 2001 (2001-02-06) abstract ----- -/--	14-29

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *G* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

23 February 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

04/03/2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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In **onal Application No**
PCT/GB2004/004683

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>NACHARAJU V L ET AL: "Presence of 11beta-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase in human semen: Evidence of correlation with semen characteristics"</p> <p>STERIODS: STRUCTURE, FUNCTION, AND REGULATION, ELSEVIER SCIENCE PUBLISHERS, NEW YORK, NY, US,</p> <p>vol. 62, no. 3, March 1997 (1997-03), pages 311-314, XP004057110</p> <p>ISSN: 0039-128X</p> <p>cited in the application abstract</p>	1-26
A	<p>NEUMANN A ET AL: "Temporal coincidence of the appearance of elongated spermatids and histochemical reaction of 11-beta-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase in rat Leydig cells"</p> <p>ANDROLOGIA,</p> <p>vol. 25, no. 5, 1993, pages 263-269, XP008042676</p> <p>ISSN: 0303-4569</p> <p>abstract</p>	1-26
A	<p>GREGORY L: "Ovarian markers of implantation potential in assisted reproduction."</p> <p>HUMAN REPRODUCTION (OXFORD, ENGLAND) DEC 1998,</p> <p>vol. 13 Suppl 4, December 1998 (1998-12), pages 117-132, XP008042677</p> <p>ISSN: 0268-1161</p> <p>abstract</p>	21-26
A	<p>THURSTON L M ET AL: "Ovarian modulators of 11beta-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase (11betaHSD) activity in follicular fluid from gonadotrophin-stimulated assisted conception cycles."</p> <p>REPRODUCTION (CAMBRIDGE),</p> <p>vol. 124, no. 6, December 2002 (2002-12), pages 801-812, XP008042678</p> <p>ISSN: 1470-1626</p> <p>cited in the application</p> <p>page 803, right-hand column, paragraphs 2,3</p> <p>page 804, left-hand column, paragraph 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-/--</p>	27-29

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>THURSTON L M ET AL: "Ovarian modulators of type 1 11beta-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase (11betaHSD) activity and intra-follicular cortisol:cortisone ratios correlate with the clinical outcome of IVF." HUMAN REPRODUCTION (OXFORD), vol. 18, no. 8, August 2003 (2003-08), pages 1603-1612, XP008042682 ISSN: 0268-1161 cited in the application abstract</p>	27-29
A	<p>THURSTON LISA M ET AL: "Ovarian modulators of 11beta-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase (11betaHSD) activity in follicular fluid from bovine and porcine large antral follicles and spontaneous ovarian cysts." BIOLOGY OF REPRODUCTION, vol. 68, no. 6, June 2003 (2003-06), pages 2157-2163, XP008042685 ISSN: 0006-3363 cited in the application abstract</p>	27-29
A	<p>GAFFNEY B T ET AL: "Panax ginseng and Eleutherococcus senticosus may exaggerate an already existing biphasic response to stress via inhibition of enzymes which limit the binding of stress hormones to their receptors" MEDICAL HYPOTHESES, vol. 56, no. 5, May 2001 (2001-05), pages 567-572, XP008042673 ISSN: 0306-9877 abstract</p>	27-29

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national application No.
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Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.: 22-26 (partially)
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Although claims 22-26 are directed to a method of treatment of the human/animal body, the search has been carried out in as far as ex vivo methods are involved.
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 30-34
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this International application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

Continuation of Box II.1

Although claims 22-26 are directed to a method of treatment of the human/animal body, the search has been carried out in as far as ex vivo methods are involved.

Continuation of Box II.1

Claims Nos.: 22-26 (partially)

Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 30-34

Present claims 30-34 relate to a product or its medical use defined by reference to a desirable characteristic or property, namely being obtainable by the method of claims 27-29.

The claims cover all products having this characteristic or property, whereas the application provides support within the meaning of Article 6 PCT and/or disclosure within the meaning of Article 5 PCT for no such products, since claims 27-29 and also the application as a whole merely disclose a method of enriching such products. There is no teaching provided which would allow a skilled person to identify those compounds falling under the scope of the claims.

In the present case, the claims so lack support, and the application so lacks disclosure, that a meaningful search for the claimed subject-matter is impossible. Independent of the above reasoning, the claims also lack clarity (Article 6 PCT). An attempt is made to define the product by reference to a result to be achieved. Again, this lack of clarity in the present case is such as to render a meaningful search impossible.

Consequently, no search has been carried out for claims 30-34.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

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Information on patent family members

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PCT/GB2004/004683

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 6183991	B1	06-02-2001	
		US 5959075 A	28-09-1999
		US 6709659 B1	23-03-2004
		US 2004086509 A1	06-05-2004
		AU 3972797 A	25-02-1998
		EP 0918859 A1	02-06-1999
		JP 2000503860 T	04-04-2000
		JP 2002204698 A	23-07-2002
		JP 2004073205 A	11-03-2004
		WO 9805782 A1	12-02-1998